

My letters to Mrs. Merrill

Sent by Mrs. Merrill

after George's death

38

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS  
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

156 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

February 4, 1925

The Rev. George Grenville Merrill,  
Hotel Chalfonte,  
Atlantic City, N. J.

My dear George:

I have been away the last week attending a Missionary Convention in Washington and only just got home last night, when I found your good letter. I am glad you are having a rest at Atlantic City and a respite from the Berkshire winter. I am glad you are going to have such a good trip abroad. There is nothing I would rather do, I think, than spend the spring time as you are going to do in Southern England.

I do expect to be here in New York on Saturday morning, February 14th, but I have to go to Philadelphia on the 13th and I have to be in Mercersburg on the 15th. Part of Saturday morning I have to be in a meeting but I should hope to be free by twelve o'clock, and from then until half past one or so, when I must catch a train for Harrisburg. I hope very much that it will be possible to get a glimpse of you then.

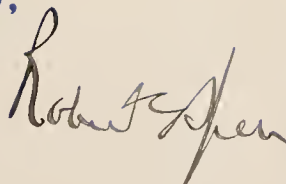
This is going to be a very crowded month, however, for me, as Mrs. Speer and I are expecting to sail on the 28th for South America to attend some missionary conferences there, getting back home about the middle of May.

I wish your visit to Washington could have come this past week. It was really a very worth-while Missionary Convention. We had the Bishop of St. Albans there, a fine, hearty Englishman. I noticed that in speaking of him yesterday, the "New York Times" had taken him right into our American bosom and described him as Dr. Furse, "the Bish. of St. Albans." He was a very good sort of a "Bish."

It is always lovely to think about you, dear George, and it will be good to see you when you are here.

Always affectionately,

RES-KC

  
Robert Speer

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS  
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

156 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

February 21, 1925.

Rev. George Grenville Merrill,  
Stockbridge,  
Mass.

My dear George:-

I was glad to get your letter of February 14th but sorry to have missed seeing you here, and very sorry to learn that you had been ill and that your boy at Concord had been having a wretched sinus trouble. I hope he is much better now and that you are all well again.

I judge from your last letter that your mother must have died. You did not tell me that, did you? I remember the last word I had from you about her was how very weak and feeble she was but was still with you. If I had known of her death I should certainly have written some word of dearest and most loving sympathy. I suppose it is harder to give up a mother the longer you have her. It is nearly fifty years since my mother died. I often wonder how one could give up a father and mother at all if one had them for so long a time, as you have had your mother.

We are getting ready to sail on Saturday, the 28th, to be gone until May 18. It will be a blessed thing to get on the steamer and find a quiet corner and settle down there for a rest.

I hope that you may have a good Spring and that I may see you soon after we get back.

Ever affectionately yours,



RES:H

The Board of Foreign Missions  
of the  
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

June 5th, 1923

The Rev. George Grenville Merrill,  
Stockbridge,  
Massachusetts.

My dear George,

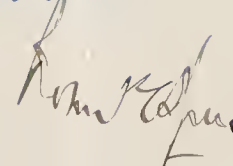
I am very sorry to have missed seeing you when you were in the other day. Miss Connell has told me of your description of the anniversary service. I wish I might have been there to throw a few bouquets and to share in the general happiness and the warm appreciation which I know everyone must have felt of your devoted service during all these years.

I have filled out and sent on to the Princeton Club the paper proposing your name as a non-resident member. I have not been in the new Club yet. Perhaps the next time you come down we can go up and visit it together.

These are good crowded days, and although one is always hoping there will be a little respite ahead the respite does not seem ever to arrive. Some day, however, it must come, and then I shall come up to Stockbridge and we shall take some good long tramps together over the Berkshire hills.

With all the old love,

Affectionately yours,



RES:C.

*Mr. no South American by date 1925 at best.*

The Board of Foreign Missions  
of the  
Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

July 11, 1922.

Rev. George Grenville Merrill,  
St. Paul's Rectory,  
Stockbridge, Mass.

My dear George:

It was lovely to get yesterday at home in Englewood your letter regarding your experience at Wellesley. I have seen several of these Summer Schools of your Church and spoke at one of them at Princeton a couple of years ago. I wish I might have been with you at Wellesley and how earnestly I wish that I might be able to go up and see you in Stockbridge sometime this summer. My plans are still very unsettled but I hope to be able to get up to Diamond Pond for August. I had hoped for a little while that Mr. Moody and I could take a motor trip this month which would have brought me through Stockbridge so that I could have seen you but we have had to give that up. Perhaps in the fall we can take such a trip and then I shall certainly try to drop in.

There are a thousand things I should like to talk over with you and to tell you about our last year's trip and I have written a very full report regarding this which is now in the printer's hands, a copy of which I shall be glad to send you in the fall. We had wonderful times, both in India and in Persia. In Persia we got far, far off into the very back corners of the world; had one trip in a wagon in midwinter, travelling day and night, between Teheran and Meshed, which is about the distance from New York to Cleveland. It was a gay experience!

The Gospel never seemed so rich and joyous to me as it does now. All this year has been one long Christian evidence on the one hand and one deep Christian experience on the other hand. How I wish you could have been along to see what I saw!

I can understand how you feel with the children growing up and scattering in school and college. We have two now who are graduated from College and two who have not yet gone. If our little daughter, Eleanor, had lived, she would be in College now, just bridging the gulf between our two graduates and our two sub-Freshmen.

I hope that you and Mrs. Merrill are both well and that you will be coming down to the City sometime this summer or early fall and we can have a little time together.

With abiding love,

Ever affectionately yours,

RES-KC.



The Board of Foreign Missions  
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Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

156 Fifth Avenue

New York

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

CABLE ADDRESS  
"INCULCATE, NEW YORK"  
THE MISSIONS CODE

Kasvin, Persia,  
March 4, 1922.

The Rev. George Grenville Merrill,  
Stockbridge,  
Mass.

My dear George:-

No words could describe to you our surroundings and situation today. We are snow bound here in this Persian town on the road from Teheran to Resht nearly at the end of our long visitation to our mission stations in India and Persia. I left New York on August 4th sailing from Vancouver to Shanghai and after a short visit in China came on at once via Hong Kong, Singapore, and Colombo to India. I was in India for three months traveling all over the country and then left just after Christmas by way of the Persian Gulf for Bagdad. After visiting Basrah and Babylon and Bagdad and Mosul, just across the river from ancient Nineveh, I came on to Persia and thus far have visited here our mission stations in Kermanshah, Hamadan, Teheran, and Meshed. To get to Meshed, which is far off on the borders of Afghanistan and Turkistan, required a long overland trip of five hundred and sixty miles each way, the last four hundred of which we made in an open post wagon without springs loaded with mail and freight traveling in the dead of winter for a week day and night in all kinds of weather. I am afraid you would not have liked it, and we certainly wouldn't have done it if it hadn't been necessary.

We left Teheran last Tuesday and ought <sup>to have</sup> got to Resht in two or threedays. We have already been snow bound four days and do not know how much longer we shall be delayed. At first we were shut in in a dismal, dirty, unheated mud caravanserai, but we succeeded day before yesterday in getting on twelve miles to this place where we can be reasonably comfortable, although from the point of view of home it is a very desolate and dreary place, and the poverty and misery around us are indescribable. The people are a kindly people with great possibilities even though some think they are a debilitated race, dried out both in their racial character and in the physical capacities of their country. But whatever the cause maybe, whether bad government, Mohammedanism, ignorance, the position of women, the deforestation and aridity of the country, lack of transport, or disease, certainly the nation is as destitute and afflicted as almost any independent people could be. One cannot but pity and love them and long for their true happiness and prosperity. Why is any nation miserable when its misery is almost always self-created, but then one may ask also why is any man miserable when God meant him to be happy and prosperous and has put happiness and prosperity either within his reach or within the reach of those who might share them with him?

We are longing for home now, and as soon as we have visited Tabriz shall go home the quickest way we can. We are still uncertain as to what that will be, but we are hoping and praying it may be possible for us to get out of Persia by way of the Caucasus and to get home early in May. How good it will be to see you again and to feel closely at hand

The Board of Foreign Missions  
of the  
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156 Fifth Avenue

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

New York December 21st, 1920.

The Rev. George Grenville Merrill,  
Stockbridge, Mass.


My dear George,

It was lovely to get your note promising a visit to New York. I received it too late to send you any word and was hoping to hear from you after your reaching the city. Were you really here or did you find that you had to change your plans? Please do not ever come to town without coming in or calling up to find whether I am at home.

There are lots of things that I should like to have a chance to talk to you about, especially in connection with this new set of responsibilities that has come in the Federal Council of the Churches.

I hope you are going to have the happiest of Christmas times and the best of New Years. With all the old love, and more love than ever,

Your affectionate friend,



RES:C.

The Board of Foreign Missions  
of the  
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.  
156 Fifth Avenue

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

New York July 29, 1920.

Rev. George G. Merrill,  
Stockbridge, Mass.

My dear George:-

Very sorry to have missed you the last time you were down. I suppose you will be at Stockbridge all summer looking after your needy flock. We are expecting to go to Mt. Desert this summer, a quiet little place named Asticou. Mrs. Speer and the children hope to go up this week and I am planning to join them next week.

I had a call from a man who said he had been working with you and had been for many years a teacher in Japan. I think he was a student of the Union Seminary. Can you commend him as a good man to take charge of a church?

I have not seen any of our '89 men for some time, except Jesse Hunter, who is now editor of the Church paper of the Dutch Reformed Church.

How old do you think a man ought to be, and how long should he have worked in one place before he is entitled to retire to a little farm? I do get utterly weary of the city with its noise, and its dirt, and its stones and bricks, and long for the country and its green and quiet. Fortunately one can get home to the country in the evening, but that is different from living in it all the time. This miserable American civilization which developed our type of city life is a dreadful thing! I don't think



Rev. George G. Merrill, -2.

that Brother Ralph Cram idea of walled towns is a practicable idea  
but I think of the country just as he thinks of it.

With warm regards to Mrs. Merrill,

Very affectionately yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'R. Cram', written in a cursive style.

RES-S.

The Board of Foreign Missions  
of the  
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

March 22nd, 1918.

The Rev. George Grenville Merrill,  
Stockbridge, Mass.

My dear George,

I hope you got home safely from New York and are feeling quite yourself again. It was so good to see you and I only wish I had had an automobile to put you in and take you right out to Englewood.

I presume you are still having winter up at Stockbridge. The spring is trying to come here, however, and it will reach you in due time.

I hope you will take it a little easier when spring comes. You have evidently been trying to carry too heavy a load this busy winter.

With warm regard to Mrs. Merrill,

Ever your affectionate friend,

RES:C.



The Board of Foreign Missions  
of the  
Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

October 17th, 1917.  
(Dictated Oct. 16th.)

The Rev. George Grenville Merrill,  
Stockbridge,  
Mass.

My dear George,

I was delighted to get yesterday your letter from Tuxedo, and wish it had been possible for you to stop in on your way back to Stockbridge. Fortunately, and very exceptionally I was here all day yesterday. These are crowded days and the war conditions double up the ordinary load. What a breath of relief the world will draw when the war is done. There is nothing that it does not affect. Humanity certainly ought to learn the lesson of its unity now, but it seems to be a lesson too difficult for even the greatest disaster to teach us. But why do not people see that whether we will or know we have got to pay the penalties of the actual unity of mankind, and why are they not rational enough to say to themselves, "Why should we pay the penalties and not reap the rewards?" This same view will apply to the whole problem of church unity as well.

It must be beautiful at Stockbridge now, and I wish I could come up and have a nice quiet Sunday with you. But with the exception of one Sunday a month at home, which I try to keep, I have engagements for all of my Sundays now until the middle of next April.

Our eldest boy Elliott is over on the other side. He went to France shortly after we entered the war, and then from there went to England. He is only 18, and the work that he has found to do is in the British Army Y.M.C.A. He is now at a camp on the Coast of Kent where they have the frequent excitement of visits from the German aeroplanes.

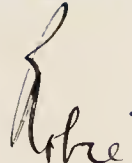
Dr, Merrill -2-

I enclose a little pamphlet regarding a new piece of work we have got under way which has brought me into many nice relationships with Bishop Lawrence and Bishop Perry. We have a fine Episcopal rector out in Englewood also who is a blessing to the community. I met Jim Thorpe the other day on a railroad train going to Princeton. He has been down in South America and is full of interest in what he saw down there, and is strongly tempted, I think, to go back in the banking business. David Bovaird is now Major Bovaird, and in charge of the Hospital at Camp Dix at Wrightstown, New Jersey. Lew Mudge I met last Tuesday at the meeting of the Board of Directors of Princeton Theological Seminary over which Maitland Alexander presides. Both of them are very rosy and rotund.

Please don't fail to keep that night for Englewood when you are next in New York. Let me know beforehand if you can so that I can make sure of being at home if possible, but come anytime. We have a roomy house, and there are always friends in it; the more the merrier.

God bless you always, dear George, and with warm regards to Mrs. Merrill and the children,

Ever affectionately yours,



RES/MS

The Board of Foreign Missions  
of the  
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.  
156 Fifth Avenue

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

New York February 21st, 1917.

The Rev. George Grenville Merrill,  
Stockbridge, Mass.

My dear George,

It was lovely to get some time ago the card showing the view from your windows with the church and the snow-laden trees. I should like so much to see Stockbridge in the winter. It must be beautiful. But it is beautiful also in the summer, and I am glad to have the memory of having seen it then, and of thinking of you and Mrs. Merrill in your own beautiful home.

I hope you will be down in New York some time this winter, and spring, and will not fail to stop in when you are here. I have been away more than usual this winter, but trust I can be at home when you are here.

With warm regard to Mrs. Merrill and the children,

Ever affectionately yours,

Robert E. Speer,  
c.

RES:C.

The Board of Foreign Missions  
of the  
Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A.  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

December 5th, 1916.

The Rev. George Grenville Merrill,  
Stockbridge,  
Mass.

My dear George,

It was very nice to get your telegram of congratulations and love which I would have acknowledged at once, but I have been only a wanderer in the earth this last month. I had a wonderful anniversary, with silver loving cups and gold watches and a sumptuous big volume of congratulatory letters. It was a dreadful load for one poor human to carry, but there was love enough to make any load feel light, and now <sup>I</sup> have started out on the second twenty five years. When they are done, you must come to the dinner and we will sit up at the head together with our venerable gray locks and speak words of wisdom to the new generation that will have come on the stage.

It is so good to look back at that little glimpse of you in your home. I wish there had been more of it but it was good to have even that much. I had never been in Stockbridge before. Now I can see it all clearly and have you set right in your environment.

With warm regards to Mrs. Merrill,

Ever affectionately yours,

RES/MS



CABLE ADDRESS:  
"ESCALATE" New York

TELEPHONE  
822 GRAMERCY

**THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS**  
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**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.A.**  
156 Fifth Avenue  
New York

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

March 13th, 1916.

The Rev. George Grenville Merrill,  
St. Paul's Rectory,  
Stockbridge, Mass

My dear George,

It was nice to get your good letter of the 26th and to know that you are to have an assistant. I trust the man you have in mind may prove to be thoroughly good, and that he may give you all the help that you could expect.

I am glad that you got some comfort out of my last letter in spite of the handwriting. A friend sent me not long ago a copy of a letter which Thomas Bailey Aldrich had written to Prof. E. S. Morse in which he told Prof. Morse that one letter from him was enough for a life time because it could never be deciphered and the recipient could always feel that he had employment for any surplus time by turning back to the letter and seeing if he could make anything more out of it. It may mean anything whatever, moreover, so that there was no limit to the construction which the imagination might put upon it.

We had a wonderful time in Panama. I wished more than ever after I saw what the Conference was that you had come. We had five of your Bishops there and some seven Bishops from other churches, with an especially fine body of men and women from the Latin American nations. I noticed one very interesting article about the Congress in The Living Church and inferred that whoever wrote that article was writing a series of letters describing the whole Congress. I believe that if we had had Dr. Manning and the Bishop of Fond du Lac there even they would have been reassured, and I think would have felt that One higher than man was directing all.

The full reports of the Congress will be printed later, and be ready for distribution, I think, in the early fall.

Mr. Merrill -2-

I presume you are still in the depth of winter at Stockbridge. We are well back in winter ourselves down here, a heavy snowfall last night making the whole world white this morning.

Sailer and his wife and oldest daughter, who have been out in the Far East this last year, will be home next month. Their closed house is almost next door to ours. It will be good to see them back again.

With warmest love,

Ever affectionately yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. K. K. K.", positioned to the right of the typed closing.

RES/MS

Dictated March 7th.





ON BOARD  
UNITED FRUIT COMPANY'S  
S S ZACAPA

My dear George,

It was a great delight to get your  
good letter. But how I wish it might have been  
earlier! And I have been reproaching my stupidity  
with the thought that perhaps if I had proposed the  
trip to you six months ago you might have been  
able to arrange to come. But six months ago I  
was in the Philippines Islands and Corbett.

We have a nice company on board including

this spring you will be coming down to New York when  
you can spend the night with us in Englewood.

I hope that Mrs. Morris can come too.

For thirty years we have loved one another  
and time and distance have only deepened the love  
but surely now that we are growing older  
we can find opportunities for the face to face  
companionship which used to give the old days.

God bless you, dear Frank, and keep you.

Yours ever loving

Robt.

Oct 6, 1916

having thought and I am sure that we shall have a  
great response with God's own guidance and blessing.

I feel just as you do in your impressions  
your country, he for a man has been able to do  
so to have opened the hearts and certainly it  
is full of heartiness. Our encouragement is that

hope do seem to be working out of such  
more healthy things, simple and low cost  
and that had an an state as this is surely  
a better religious loyalty and sense of duty.

I hope to get back to New York in Feb. 28, if  
I am not detained in Cuba. and surely soon there

CABLE ADDRESS:  
"INCUCLCATE" NEW YORK

TELEPHONE  
822 GRAMERCY

**THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS**  
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156 Fifth Avenue  
NEW YORK

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

December 22nd, 1915.

Rev. George Grenville Merrill,  
St. Paul's Rectory,  
Stockbridge, Mass.

My dear George,

It was a great pleasure to get your letter and the postal card of Christmas greeting. It must be very wintry at Stockbridge now, and I am glad that you are going to spend part of the winter in Washington.

I had not heard of Stuart's death, having been away and out of touch with everything during the last eight months. I can imagine what a sorrow it brings to you and your mother. The years are drawing near when we must be getting ready for more gaps in the circles nearest and dearest to us than we have had in the past, and one's heart simply rests in the clear confidence that the real life isn't here at all, and that those who go, go forth into the career that has reality and eternity in it.

I hope very much that if you are in New York, going or coming from Washington, you will be sure to let me know. I should like so much to see you and tell you about this last trip and some of our experiences. David was with me all the time, and Thomas Sailer in the Philippines and Korea. It has been a wonderful experience, full of new knowledge and inspiring summons.

I hope you will like the little book on the Fourth Gospel. I dropped out the word "Saint" in order to keep the whole text uniform with the Bible usage itself. It was a great satisfaction getting the little book ready, although now when I pick it up and look back over it, it seems so woefully inadequate.

Mr. Merrill, #2.

This is just a little note to wish you the happiest of  
happy Christmases, and to send you the deepest love from,

Your always loving friend,

*Robie*

P S:MS.

P.S. I almost overlooked answering your kind invitation to come up to  
speak to your people some Sunday ~~for~~ the latter part of June. I wish  
I could hope to do it but that is just the season of the Annual Student  
Conferences and if I can get away from New York at all at that time, I must  
visit some of those conferences, surely at Northfield and perhaps also at  
Eaglesmere, Pa., Lake Geneva, Estes Park, Colo. I am sorry because it  
would be the greatest pleasure to come if I could come.

RES.

156 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK

December Twenty-eighth

1914.

My dear George,

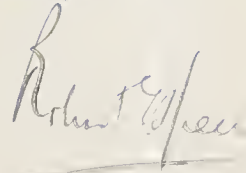
I thank you heartily for your good holiday greeting and wish you every joy and blessing in the New Year. May God make it the richest and best of all the years for you and all who are dear to you.

The lovely little card that you sent me is one of the most beautiful I have ever seen and made me long for the woods. I envy you your winter life at Stockbridge and as much of the spring and fall as you are spared the summer invasion, but I do not think I would like the summer horde.

I hope that you are all well and that the New Year may be the very best that you have ever had and that it may bring a few more chances of our meeting together than the last year brought, although I do not know that it will as David Bovaird and I are planning to start for Siam at the end of April to visit various countries in Eastern Asia through the rest of the year.

With warm regard to Mrs. Merrill and yourself,

Ever affectionately yours,



The Rev. George G. Merrill,

Stockbridge, Mass.

CABLE ADDRESS:  
"INCULCATE" NEW YORK

TELEPHONE  
822 GRAMERCY

**THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS**  
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156 Fifth Avenue  
New York

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

October 31st, 1917.

The Rev. George Grenville Merrill,  
Newport, Rhode Island.

My dear George:

Mrs. Spear was delighted to get your good letter of the 17th, which I carried off from her in order that I might write to tell you how much she enjoyed your visit and how glad I was to see even a little bit of you and to have you see Mrs. Spear again and meet the children. These old friendships are the most priceless possessions in life, and while happily real friendship never can rust or die, it is nice that there can be sufficiently frequent meetings to keep the old relationships vivid and continuously present to the mind, as they are tenderly secure in the heart. I wish I might have the pleasure of seeing Mrs. Merrill and the children, but I don't know when that can be, and the year enticing description of Newport and the chance of getting pensions for a mere song almost allure me to give up everything else and go to live in Newport on the income of the amount that one can save in buying a house there.

With warmest regards to Mrs. Merrill, I am

Very affectionately yours,

*Robert C. Spear*

**THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS**  
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156 Fifth Avenue  
NEW YORK

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

September 17th, 1912.

The Rev. George Grenville Merrill, D.D.,  
135 Rhode Island Avenue,  
Newport, Rhode Island.

My dear George:

Your good letter of September 14th was waiting for me at home last evening. It was a great pleasure to get it and I cannot tell you how much I appreciate your asking me to stand as godfather to Margery Pepperrell. Nothing would please me more, and I have been searching my engagement book to see whether by any possibility I could be in or near Newport this month. I am sorry to have to say, however, that I have no engagement in Boston until the end of October, and that I have engagements elsewhere for every day for the next month which would prevent my going up to Newport for Margery's baptism, much as I should rejoice to do so. It has gone right to my heart that you should ask me, and I would count it one of the greatest possible pleasures to come.

I am glad Margery has such a lovely name, and that she has such a long-vested right to it. I wish her every blessing for her own sake and her father's.

I hope that you and Mrs. Merrill and your children have had as pleasant a Summer as we have had. We were home in Englewood all Summer with the exception of the time that we were at Diamond Pond, where we had a delightful time.



Dr. Merrill - 2.

I hope that you will be coming down to New York before so very long, and with warmest love, I am

Ever your friend,

*Robert Speer*

s/f

CABLE ADDRESS:  
"Inculcate" New York

TELEPHONE  
822 GRAMERCY

**THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS**  
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September 26th, 1919.

The Rev. George Grenville Merrill,  
135 Rhode Island Avenue,  
Newport, Rhode Island.

My dear George:

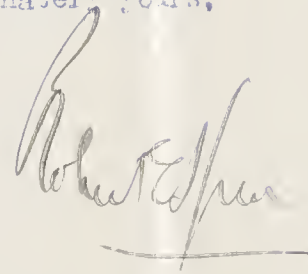
Your good letter of September 16th has been received, and I need not tell you that I fully share your disappointment in my inability to get to Newport. I should have rejoiced to have the privilege of standing as godfather to LARGERIE. I hope I may be able some time to make her acquaintance and to see the other children.

I am hoping to be here October 28th, and we shall be delighted to see you in Englewood that night if you can come. Will you let me know later whether it is going to be possible for you to be in New York then?

With warmest love, I am

Ever affectionately yours,

s/f



*I fear that I may have to be in Philadelphia on Oct. 28 but shall not know definitely for a few days. But you must let me know when you are coming down. And to be there or later?*

**THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS**  
OF THE  
**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.A.**  
156 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

March 24th, 1910.

The Rev. George Grenville Merrill,  
Buffalo, New York.

My dear George:

I got back from Scotland a fortnight ago, having had a most interesting and delightful experience. I was over for a little more than six weeks, delivering a course of six lectures at three places every Sunday evening in Edinburgh, every Tuesday afternoon in Glasgow, and every Thursday afternoon in Aberdeen. Between these lectures I was running all over the country, speaking at missionary meetings held in the interest of the Conference in June. There were immense crowds at some of these, and it was very interesting going about among the Scotch people and being entertained in their homes, instead of, as in other days, at hotels. I met some delightful people, and got accustomed at the last to the shivering coldness of the houses. I am glad to be back again though, and that this wandering is over. It awakens the vagabond instincts in one too much. Out of the last ten months I have been away eight, roaming over a dozen different countries, in all kinds of conditions, and while it joggles one up, it isn't good for one. I am glad to be settled down again at last for a little while.

The Conference in Edinburgh comes in June, however, and I must go back for that. We are talking over the possibility of our all going over together, - that is, the whole family, together with Mrs. Speer's mother and aunt. In that case, we would stay for a month or two after the Conference.

I am glad to know that you have taken hold of such a big task as the raising of \$5,000,000. There is no fund which ought to appeal more to the

Mr. Merrill - 2.

sympathy and interest of American people than that one, and I trust that you may succeed without long and weary waiting.

I cannot tell you how good it was, dear Georgie, to see your handwriting again. I only hope that even if you do not foresee it, something will be bringing you down to New York within the next two months. Please do not fail to let me know of your coming, or if you are called down too suddenly for that, do not fail to come in so that we can have some good time together.

With warm regards to Mrs. Merrill, I am

Ever your affectionate friend,

Dictated March 22nd.

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156 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK

MADISON SQUARE BRANCH  
P. O. Box No. 2

April 27th, 1909.

The Rev. George <sup>W. C.</sup>Grennell Merrill,  
214 Porter Avenue,  
Buffalo, N. Y.

My dear George:-

Your good letter of Easter Tuesday was duly received,  
and I trust that before this you got my letter.

It would have been very nice if you could have come down  
either Easter Monday or afterwards. I am afraid it will be a long time  
now before I see you again, as I sail two weeks from to-day. I shall  
look forward, though, to seeing you in the fall, and shall hope that we  
may all be kept in health and safety through the months until then.  
I am delighted to know that everything is going so well in the Church,  
and trust that all your work may be more and more strengthened and per-  
fected.

I wish I had one of those photographs to send you. Mrs. Speer  
has enjoined on me that I must get a new one before leaving for South  
America, but I hate photographs like poison, and don't know whether I  
shall be able to do it or not. If I do, I shall leave word with Mrs.  
Speer to have one sent to you.

I am sorry to miss our Twentieth Reunion down at Princeton  
this June. I hope that you will be able to get back, and that you may  
all have a good time among the old scenes.

With warmest love, dear George,

Ever affectionately yours,

Dictated April 21st.

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MADISON SQUARE BRANCH  
P. O. BOX NO 2

April 13th, 1909.

The Rev. George Granville Merrill,  
214 Porter Ave.,  
Buffalo, New York.

My dear George:-

After dictating a reply to your other note, in which you held out some hope that you could come down for the Monday after Easter, I was sorry to get your note of the 30th, saying that you found you would not be able to come. I had hoped surely that you could be here.

There is to be a public dinner in town that night, at which I promised to speak, but you could have gone there with me and we could have sat together with Sailer. I am afraid, if you do not get down this month sometime, that it will be a long time before I see you again, as I am expecting to leave for South America the first week in May, to be gone until the end of October, visiting our Missions in Brazil and Chile and the Republic of Colombia. I hope that you and Mrs. Merrill are both well, and am sorry that I never get to Buffalo, when I would surely take time to see you if I could. I hope that you will be down in the city some time this month, and that at the least we could have luncheon together.

With warmest love,

Ever affectionately yours,

Dictated April 9th.

*R. G. L.*



R. M. S. P. "Thames"

Cartagena Harbor, Colombia,

Oct. 17, '09

My dear George,

Mrs. Spear sent me your note to her acknowledging the photograph and your good letter to me has been forwarded to me and my heart has been very warm at the thought of your love and of our long and true friendship, begun so many years ago and never interrupted or to be interrupted. How different and how much stronger and richer as of life because when we have it to be a bit of the stars and it must be good to be among the immortal riches! All through this long trip with its absence from those I love but that thought has been the one

Thank you very much for your words of sympathy over our loss in the  
death of my father. He was a truly great man. He had great gifts and he was  
using them well and would have used them for even greater things. I don't wait  
that he is using them now and for far greater things still. And what God  
orders is never ordered otherwise. On the Magdalena River down which I have just  
come the pilot is up two stories above the passengers and sees what they cannot see  
and knows the cause as they cannot know it. And higher still is God.

It will be good to see you soon, and meet dear George

I am your loving friend,

Robt.



great consolation I have been hard to live so much  
from the too brief joy of our life-time, but then they  
are. I have always reminded myself - that life-long  
love, but eternal and the love is but as a transient  
out of the infinite. But the long absence is over  
now and I am homeward bound. I took this  
boat yesterday at Puerto Colombia and shall go straight  
to New York or it via Colon and Jamaica. Reaching  
here Oct 27<sup>th</sup>.

I want to share of the new joy that has  
come to you and Mrs. Mearns in the birth of your  
little boy whom I shall hope have joy to see.  
I do hope that he and all of you are well  
and thank God that each day now I can nearer  
to you and to all who are dear to me

156 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK

Mr. Merrill - 2.

I enclose a little pamphlet containing a report of an address to boys, which you may not have seen, and which you may be able to give to some one of your boys who is fighting his own battle with temptation.

Please come down when you can, and be sure that I will come to see you if ever I am in Buffalo and am able to do so.

With warmest Christmas greetings to Mrs. Merrill and yourself, I am

Ever affectionately yours,



Dictated December 23th.

Enclosure.

My dear George,

I am filled with joy at  
the good tidings of your letter.

May God bless and keep the little  
life and make her very useful  
in His service. It is a great  
school into which you have been  
admitted now. I heartily wel-

lyce and universities and there  
is no graduation from it. You  
are understood God and His  
be more than ever now.

Mrs. O'fer is delighted to  
hear the good news and re-  
joice greatly with Mrs. Merrill.  
And thank you so much,

George dear, for your loving

words. I wish we did see

more of one another but happily

love is not dependant upon

physical nearness and when

the "things" are as fast and

as we ever have known we

can be near forever.

With warm love to you

and Mrs. Merrill and the lady

Always affectionately yours,

Robert W. Speer

Feb 26. 07

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P. O. BOX NO. 2

156 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK

August 9, 1906.

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

The Rev. George Grenville Merrill,

Harbour Court,

Newport, R. I.

My dear George:

Your loving note of July 31st came last week. For three weeks I had been watching anxiously over the sick bed of our little three year old daughter Eleanor whose mother was in Europe. She returned on July 30th and for another week she and I watched together sometimes kneeling for hours by the little bed not knowing what moment might be the last. On Monday of this week the little one passed beyond all her sickness and pain. It is impossible to realize that she is not here. It is simply inconceivable to Mr. Speer and me that she has gone. She was always the perfect embodiment of life and energy and perfect health and good humor and resoluteness and courage, but "of such is the Kingdom of Heaven." And we are trying hard not to be selfish but to rejoice even in the face of our immeasurable loss.

I do indeed rejoice in what you tell me of your home and shall be waiting and praying with you.

A week ago I was hoping that we would have to give up our plan of going away at all this summer as the doctors after utter despair were daring to believe that perhaps the little one might get well, but would need the most careful nursing here for a month before she could be moved. Now, however, we expect to go next week. Mrs. Speer and the children need it and I shall be glad to be off in a quiet place with them. We shall be up at Diamond Pond until the middle of September at least I think. That will mean our being there for the first three Sundays of September. It is a very quiet simple place. The simplest way to get there from the White Mountains is to take a train that leaves Fabyans about 12:30 and gets to Colebrook about 2:30. I could have the camp hackboard meet you there, if you will let me know what day you will come.

With kind regards from us all and the deepest regret that when you do come you will not see the noblest little girl I ever saw, I am, very lovingly your friend,

Robert E. Speer.

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OFFICE OF SECRETARY

November 17, 1906.

The Rev. George Brewster Merrill,  
214 Porter Avenue,  
Buffalo, N. Y.

My dear George:

I was on the Pacific Coast from the 1st to the 10th of October and only received your letter of October 18th on my return back the first week of this month. I am very sorry that I was not able to take the time of this little visit from you in England. You must be sure to keep an eye on me the next time you can come down for us. I had a fine time on the Pacific Coast but am delighted to be back home again, only I shall not be able to stay home very long as there are so many other engagements ahead which will take me away.

I hope that you and Mr. Merrill are well and with a great deal of love and hoping to hear soon the confirmation of the hopes of which you wrote to me in the summer, I am,

Ever affectionately yours,





Diamond Pond, N.H.

Sept. 4 '06

My dear George

Your loving letter came a fortnight ago and it was very good to get it. We long for our loved ones more and more. This must be one of God's ways to draw our hearts more toward Him self and that better

Country when He is and when Eleanore is with Him.

We have to be sure that each one of us go home  
and it will be very good to look forward to the night I  
promise to spend in Englewood, I hope we may see in  
the fall and have a very sweet visit

With warm regards to Mrs. Annie and expect soon

Ever your loving friend,  
Robert

ROBERT E. SPEER  
ENGLEWOOD, N. J.

My dear George,

Thank you so much for your Christmas greeting  
I hope that you and Mrs. Merric have had a joy-  
ful holiday season. Are you all well?

"Mako" Road was with us last night & was  
just to see him again with his eyes being about  
the same as of old.

We have had a joyous Christmas season, though  
Mrs. Owen and I have had our hearts full of mem-  
ories. We are the memory as we hope of that  
glad day when "the eyes were made which we  
have loved long since and lost awhile."

With loving wishes for the new year,

Ever affectionately your friend  
Robbie

Dec. 29, '06

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156 FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK

July 6th, 1906.

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

M.

The Rev. George G. Merrill,  
214 Porter Avenue,  
Buffalo, N.Y.

My Dear George,-

I have been away for some days at the summer Student Conferences, or should have answered earlier your good note about your summer plans. Mrs. Speer is in England now, where she went on just a little trip, which I thought would do her good, and will not be back until July 30th. I hope we can get away about August 10th for the camp in Northern New Hampshire. Our railroad station is Colebrook. The camp is about twelve miles away from the station. Colebrook is away up in the northern end of the state on the Maine Central Railroad. It is about two hours ride from Fabian's and it is about two hours from there out to camp. It would be delightful to see you up there if you could manage to come. I am off on fishing trips almost every week for from one to three days, but am always in the camp on Sundays, and I hope that, if you can come up, you will arrange it so that you will be there for Sunday. I shall be up there, I hope, from about the 11th of August to the 10th of September.

How good it is to have the summer time come, even if it brings chiefly change of work, rather than simple rest. After all it is the change of work which is the real rest.

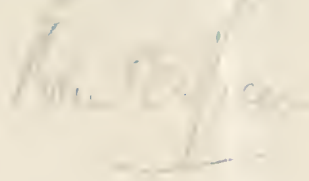
Will you not be down here again before you go to Newport? You must have to go through New York to get to Newport. Please be sure to stop in if you are here and if you can only have a night

Mr. Merrill, 2.

for Englewood, be sure to keep it. Mrs. Speer, as I said, is away  
but Mrs. Driley is with the three children and me.

With warmest love,

Very affectionately yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mrs. Driley".

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OFFICE OF SECRETARY

November 14th, 1905.

The Rev. George Grenville Merrill,  
214 Porter Avenue,  
Buffalo, N. Y.

My Dear George:-

I was very glad to get your letter of the 8th, and rejoice that you are coming down in December. By all means you must come out and spend at least one night with us. I hope that Mrs. Merrill will be with you.

I see that my younger brother has been appointed Secretary to the Mayor, and was glad to read the very kindly references to him in the Buffalo papers.

It will be a great joy to see you again, and with a great deal of love, I am,

Ever your friend,

*W. B. E. [Signature]*

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M.  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

April 28, 1905.

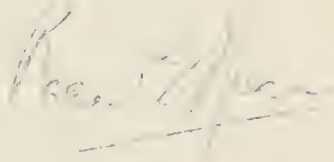
The Rev. George Grenville Merrill,  
214 Porter Avenue,  
Buffalo, New York.

My dear George:

I am very sorry to have missed you this afternoon. I got back as soon as I could from my engagement, only to find that you had left about fifteen minutes before. Be sure to come in the next time you are down and if Mrs. Speer is at home, as she is not now, I wish you and Mrs. Merrill could have an evening that you could spend with us in Englewood. It has been a long time since we have had a good talk, and I hope it may not be very much longer.

With warmest love,

Ever your friend,



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M.  
OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Dec. 29, 1904.

The Rev. George Grenville Merrill,  
Buffalo, New York.

My dear George:

Thank you so much for the  
Christmas greeting. It was a delight to  
have that little word from you. I hope that  
you and Mrs. Merrill had a happy Day. We had  
a jubilant time with three youngsters, making  
merry and being glad. The next time you and  
Mrs. Merrill are down, I hope you can take a  
night and spend it with us in Englewood.

With best wishes for the New Year and  
warm regards to Mrs. Merrill,

Ever affectionately yours,

*R. H. H. H.*



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MADISON SQUARE BRANCH  
P. O. BOX No. 2

May 26, 1904.

The Rev. George Grenville Merrill,  
214 Porter Avenue,  
Prospect Park,  
Buffalo, N.Y.

My dear George:

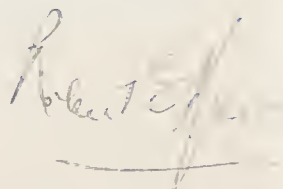
Just a few hours before I left Buffalo on Wednesday evening, your loving note was handed to me. I wish very much I could have got around to see you, but I was in Buffalo only five days and literally every hour was filled. It was meeting, meeting, meeting and engagement, engagement, engagement. I was in my brother's house only twice, once for an hour or two and the other time for about five minutes; and there were others whom I wanted to see whom I was unable to see at all.

We had wonderfully good missionary meetings. We could feel the answer to the many prayers that had been made and I was very conscious of the help and prayers offered for me.

I hope that you may soon be quite yourself again. Sometime, I wish I could come to Buffalo with no meetings at all to go to, but with the opportunity of seeing you and Mrs. Merrill.

Will you be down to Princeton week after next? I hope to go down at least for Monday for our Class meeting and dinner in the evening. With a great deal of love

Ever your friend,



Harrisburg, Pa.,

Dec. 30, 1898

My dear George,

Your very kind note was  
forwarded to me by your  
Sister-in-law, I have been thinking  
up about you and Mrs. Thorne  
this Christmas time. Mrs.  
Thorne and I send you our  
very warmest Christmas  
and New Year greetings

Mr. Speer and Elliott came  
over here about a month  
ago and I have been here  
nearly a week. On Monday  
we shall return home to  
Englewood.

Joe had to the man  
bag. He is growing like a  
tree man and is plenty  
at a rabbit. He would  
love you his best then  
love's pretty.

I hope that you and Mrs.  
Minnie are well and that  
I can see you again before  
very long.

Bring has reminded me  
of our visit here nearly  
six years ago - was then  
five years out of town. How  
much has happened since  
then and how the years  
roll!

But however much hope  
you and however the years  
roll, friendships old and  
new grow richer with time  
God bless you, George, and  
all those you love

Ever your loving friend

Robbie

Bellefonte, Pa.

Jan 17, 1891

My dear George,

A gentle rain shower has been  
refreshing the earth this afternoon  
and I have just been praying that  
we do the gentle spirit comes face  
on you, and me and make us cool  
and sweet, while at the same time He  
makes us bring forth and bud, and  
show us the little fruits of love and  
gentleness and peace and abstinence and  
truth and liberality to One whom we have

never seen but whom some day we shall  
see and like whom we shall be on  
the day that we see Him.

I am kept pretty busy here going to  
see people in the evenings and preparing  
for Sunday and Wednesday in the  
mornings. Then too, there is incidental

work - Temperance meetings are tomorrow  
evening I expect to drive to a College  
eight or more miles away to  
speak there.

God made everything very pretty  
out here - hills and mountains, fields  
and brooks. Only hard hearts could

Keep from praising him for the deed of  
the good hands.

I expect to leave here some say to spend  
a week at Nantuxet. Can you not  
fit up there? You have been attended  
one of the Nantuxet meetings. You would  
not mind to be away from home long -  
a little over a week would be enough  
and you would get a very great  
benefit I know, Georgie.

---

There are several Princeton men  
here, so that it is very pleasant.  
I shall come back into Nantuxet  
and stay this August, and then go  
to Pottstown, Pa. to spend August and



the first half of September.

I hope you may have a very  
pleasant summer. Some time ago I  
got a very kind invitation from Mr.  
Quater Jones to visit them in  
Mexico but I am afraid I can  
not be there at all.

Ever your sincere friend,

In His Name,

Robert E. Spear

Huntingdon, Pa.,

Jan. 1, 1890.

My dear friend George,

I am glad to sit down  
this New Year's Day to write a  
line to you. Your long letters have  
been of such great pleasure to  
me that I often lean back and  
reproach myself for having failed  
to write to you as I should. One of  
your letters came to me at Green-  
spondville, Indiana, at a time when  
there seemed to be very few in  
whom one could find that pur-  
sue of responsive sympathy which  
every true friend can give in part  
and the do the friend perfectly. I  
was very glad to get that letter and  
could only bow my head and  
pray that the Good Lord who led us  
through College might guide and lead you  
too on your quest by this side.  
In traveling about so much I

had abundant time in the cars to  
dream of old days, of new days, of  
the great days preparing for us, and  
to pray. People around us do not  
understand us. I rejoice at it.  
"Therefore the world knoweth us not, be-  
cause it knew him not." The less  
sympathy we have from men, the less  
intercourse our hearts can have  
with the great rush of unspiritual  
life, so much the deeper are our know-  
ledge of them grows, so much richer  
are our conversations with Him be-  
come. I think I am narrowing  
down to only a few books. I  
have dabbled in many but there are  
two I read more than all others -  
the Bible - especially the Psalms and the  
New Testament - and Kempis' Imitation.  
Tradition and history have greatly  
abused the old mystics and I think  
they did go too far in asceticism  
and separation from life but I am

forces surprising my spirit stealing off  
alone to Jesus, away from the noises  
of the world, the base feet of men, the  
tumors, the unceasing strife [which  
is an economic way - I think your  
brother Stewart's ideas are set in  
antagonism against] - only to be in  
the secret of this silent hidden pres-  
ence. There I think you and I  
can meet through words separate  
as there we touch the throbbing  
hearts of those who in any land,  
sect or creed really know the Lord  
Jesus and love Him. Let us hide  
there. I remember how as a little  
boy on cold winter evenings I  
would warm my cold feet and my  
little legs by evening fire and  
then with my brother nestle close  
together to sleep. I would do to nestle  
down upon the bosom of my Lord.  
He promised it. He will tenderly  
carry the little lambs upon His bosom

Doesn't our that precious heart let us  
rest together, dear George. And if the  
world hat us we know that it  
hated them also. I am willing to be  
hated with the lovely One.

Do we really suffer enough for our  
Lord? You remember the words in  
Philippians - "not only to believe, but  
are to suffer for His sake;" "to know the  
power of His resurrection, and the  
fellowship of His suffering." If we  
can find a little extra suffering  
let's shoulder it for His sake. Some  
one is poor and weak enough to  
carry a burden. Let's share it  
and carry it for them, and let's  
praise Him if it brings us suffering.

(Galatians vi, 2)

This is New Year's Day - a huge or  
a third of our lives is gone  
Go on my life - the father, the mother,  
for every day takes me nearer to  
my Lord or brings my hand nearer,

to me. I wish you the happiness of  
happy New Year. I wish you the  
fullest blessing. He gives the  
blessing to  
If you meet some poor soul  
who needs to be loved just as  
that soul you have a friend over  
here who has no love of his own  
at all, but who has a Master -  
the then your friend a slave -  
who furnishes this slave with most  
abundant love that there is  
enough and to spare.

I do not need to say that I  
hope you may have the pleasantest  
time in your journeying. If you  
get into Palestine and at Jerusalem,  
or at Bethany or on Olivet just  
make a little prayer for me too  
and stand for me when the Lord  
stands opposite the cloud  
and receiving Him out of their  
sight and He gave them His royal

wife - Robert - we shall meet her  
to carry out - or she may come  
back and find us sleeping.

With heartfelt regards to your mother  
and brothers and my own love to you,

Adieu your sincere friend,  
Robert G. Speer.

about 15000 population. It is like a  
town, not having availed itself of  
the privileges and duties of a city  
charter. There are a great many  
poor people to be visited. Each day  
now I go to see a man who  
was kicked in the stomach by a  
horse and lies on his back all  
the time. He can't read, I believe,  
and never was even a pretended  
Christian but we are getting to  
be very good friends, and I  
am trying to have him under-  
stand something about Christ and



His love for him. He is very ardent  
but it is hard to do any good, as  
I think being slow, unworked, when the  
element of personal character can not  
come in and it takes a long time  
to get a man to know you so  
that he will have bestowed and  
beneath-holding confidence in you.

I hope He may keep you to  
bound many souls this summer  
of their and of their own best  
selves.

Your affectionate friend,

You might interest

some Newport people in these  
letters: I don't know any

thing about the water or the rivers: friends together will do.

Robert E. New

Princeton, N. J.,

April 20, '88.

Dear George,

The message of your  
glad tidings come last evening  
and though my heart has  
been full of things this last  
month it feels so joyous that  
you have come into this blessed  
fellowship of those who ever  
give their lives and do their  
how for the service of those  
other. One who gave all for

us. In all this wide world or  
in all other worlds there is  
nothing so grand, so happy,  
so high as following our Mas-  
ter and He will give us  
Grace to follow even unto  
the end. He bids us to love  
as pray for one another: and  
may He give our fellow  
life with the joy of His  
service and perfect unto  
you Psalm LXXIII, 24 28.

Yours in the Great Name,  
R. E. Spier

Huntingdon Ia  
Sept 18

My dear George

I came back from  
camping a week or more  
ago and take this time  
to answer your letter.

Had a pleasant time,  
but the expectation of  
a pleasant ride indeed  
the first few days rather  
flat. You never camped  
with a crowd of girls  
that way, when a stage

was it only a form and  
not a necessity. There  
lots of fun in it, but  
it takes ~~much~~ discretion  
and forbearance to make  
it successful or pleasant.  
We had a house to  
ourselves. It was an  
old log one with a  
large chimney on the  
outside and a big  
fire place in one room.  
We took our meals  
at a farm house nar-  
ly half a mile distant.  
Had our own horses,  
a cow, and some

off board and no neigh-  
bor nearer than the  
farmer's family with  
whom we boarded.

It would take too much  
time, paper and your  
patience to relate the  
details of the days we  
spent. One can know the  
delights of it all only  
by placing himself in  
like conditions and  
like surroundings. When  
I think of it I try  
to banish all thought  
of its practical course.

features, and think of it  
as a dream, a short  
sojourn in another land.  
It would be pleasant  
if we could do this  
with all our experiences  
in other words if we  
had full control over  
our spontaneous thoughts  
and more spontaneous  
by nature, imaginative.

My brother has been  
home twice this summer.  
You saw his size &  
weigh more than he

Does do you see this  
operation has been  
made for the first  
last by the little light  
you used to see burn  
ing when you went to  
bed. It is so easy  
to get a false reputa-  
tion desirable or not.  
Today I visited the  
schools where I was  
graduated before I  
went to Andover. The  
thoughts call up are  
so very complicated the  
recollections do seem



free news. For here of 40000  
people it seems to me  
assumes a franchise of  
spontaneity, and never  
few seem aware of it.

September seems to  
be the best month of  
the year. Poets are  
forever telling lies  
about June and May  
and other axiomatic  
seasons, but September  
is better than all, and  
wish there were several  
such months of the year.

were not enough men  
invent incentives to  
slaughter.

My boat was badly  
sprained and camping  
but I hobbled through  
a dozen or more dances  
at the last base of  
the summer season  
here, which season ends  
with our departure.

Truly your friend

Robert E. Spurr